THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Sanctions are generally accorded or refused within the precribed time limit of three months. Detailed guidelines for checking delay in grant of sanction for prosecution have been issued by the Government in November, 2006.

(b) The Government considers cases for accord of sanction for prosecution of Government employees in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

(c) In regard to the proposals for accord of sanction submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), 7 cases were pending with the respective competent authorities for over one year as on 31.12.2007, as reported by the CBI.

Filling of backlog vacancies

2255. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of backlog vacancies that are still not filled in by several Departments;

(b) by when these vacancies would be filled in through Special Recruitment Drive;

(c) whether it is a fact that now a days highly qualified and eligible SC/ST candidates are available in the Open Market/Departments;

(d) whether it is also a fact that some Departments still say that "eligible/suitable SC/ST are not available";

(e) if so, the solution for this with Government; and

(f) the kinds of efforts that are being made by Government to sort out these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Various Ministries/Departments had identified 60,845 backlog reserved vacancies of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which could be filled up. 53,444 of these vacancies have already been filled up by launching a Special Recruitment Drive.

(c) to (f) Direct recruitment to a post is made from amongst the candidates who apply for the post and promotion to a post is made from amongst the candidates available in the consideration zone. Eligible and suitable SC/ST candidates, sometimes, do not apply or are not available within the zone of consideration or the extended zone of consideration.

Backlog of vacancies

†2256. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that still a number of posts for SC/ST and OBC are lying vacant in Central Government and its undertakings/Establishments/Institutions including the All India Services;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government has decided to clear the backlog of reserved vacancies speedily; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.